



Counterpoise

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon



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Counterpoise Editor - Sue Robins AF6LJ

Emergency Message Handling

By Sue Robins AF6LJ

At the April meeting Don Dodson KI6GZK gave a presentation on emergency message handling. Don discussed the challenges EMCOMM personnel face along with many of the common problems experienced in emergency situations. Don also introduced us to a standardized communications protocol used to provide effective communications. The heart of this protocol is the use of a specialized vocabulary. Much like any other highly specialized field the vocabulary is designed to describe and direct a process. In this case the process is passing and managing messages that need to be communicated and routed to their destination. A standardized phonetic alphabet is used. While many of us make up phonetics for our informal day to day communications, Willie Alpha Six Big Green Spiders is not suitable for emergency communications. This could cause confusion. On the other hand; Whiskey Alpha Six Bravo Golf Sierra would be understood by anybody trained to use the protocols used in emergency communications. The whole idea is to get the message across, and to that end there are protocols for handling large messages, more than just one or two lines. Messages are broken up into segments and a request for any missed information is sent by the sender "Break For Fill" as it is called.

While the amateur community has a traffic handling system that has been used for decades interfacing with government agencies and increasingly more with public safety, a different system was adopted. Messages are taken down on one of the many versions of Form ICS 213.



The type of message traffic will determine which ICS 213 is used.

As the tools we have as amateurs that we can employ in emergency traffic handling, so have those organizations we must work with. We are stepping into the 21st century and with it we must learn new skills on order to fulfill our part when disaster strikes.



Antenna Party

By Sue Robins AF6LJ, Pictures by Pat Bunsold WA6MHZ

On the last of March Pat WA6MHZ and I got together again for some more work on the garage, this time we would spent a couple of hours erecting and tuning a tri-band dipole for 12, 17, and 30 meters. It is basically three dipoles with a common feed point spaced about a 18" inches apart. The project went smoothly We had tested the antenna over at Mark and Terry's place (KB6PJU & K6TRY) three weeks before. We decided that after reaching a major milestone in our cleaning and reorganization project that a few hours spent on getting this antenna up and working was in order, so up the tower I went. Pat is well equipped when it comes to putting up antennas. We were able to get the antenna up and tuned in a timely manner. The SWR on all three bands was acceptable, below 2:1, and some DX was worked to certify the antenna ready to work more DX.



Next Month's Meeting

Swap meet bring your items that are no longer used, and sell or trade them with other members. Just before Field Day is a good time to buy, sell or trade gear, parts, or whatever you have on hand.

Hope to see you there.



Operating Day at Fry's Electronics

Another Operating Day Event will be held at Fry's Electronics on May 2, 2015. Fry's Operating day is an event to expose the public to amateur radio, a chance for amateurs to show off their portable and mobile radio equipment, GO Kits and all manner of mobile, portable and remote operating. Fry's and San Diego Six Shooters are hosting the event, stay tuned for more details as the date draws near.

The San Diego Morse Code Practice Group

Mark Wardwell KB6PJU has been running a code practice group on the WA6BGS VHF and UHF repeaters. The repeaters are linked to accommodate the needs and accessibility of all who wish to participate. The code practice Group meets at 7:00 PM Pacific time on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

ARCEC Repeater Frequencies

2 Meter Repeater	220 MHZ Repeater	440 MHZ Repeater
TX 146.475	TX 222.480	TX 440.900
RX 147.420	RX 224.080	RX 445.900
Offset .945	Offset 1.6	Offset 5.00
PL 107.2	PL 107.2	PL 107.2



The National Weather Service in San Diego Presents...

2015 WeatherFest and All-Hazards



Saturday, May 9th, 2015
10 am to 2 pm
11440 W. Bernardo Court, San Diego, CA

Join us for a day of weather and all-hazards preparedness events and information sharing as we remember the May 2014 wildfires. Come help Southern California become ready and resilient for the next disaster, and sign up to be a Weather-Ready Ambassador. It will be fun for all ages!



Meet Owlie Skywarn

- Free NOAA Weather Radio Ruffled Every Hour •
- Tours of the NWS Office Every 30 Minutes •
- Weather Balloon & Games for Kids •
- Emergency Vehicles on Site •
- Free Educational Materials •
- Free Preparedness Guides •



Food and Beverage
for Purchase

SPECIAL GUESTS

ABC10 Megan Parry - CW6 Sabrina Fein - KUSI Dave Scott - NASA - CalFire - US Border Patrol - San Diego Fire and Rescue - SDGE - American Red Cross - BLM - NPS - US Navy - San Diego County OES - Cal OES - Green Machine Science Van - Amateur Radio - CERT - CDIP - CA Geological Survey - Western Science Center - PLANT!T NOW - Tribal Long Term Recovery and more!

Event parking will be along West Bernardo Court.

Advance tour sign-ups available by RSVP to Jimmy.Taeger@noaa.gov Agency contact Alexander.Tardy@noaa.gov





The **AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OF EL CAJON**^{Inc.}
WA6BGS

Post Office Box Fifty, El Cajon California 92022

Founded 1960 ~ Incorporated 1976

Please fill out this form and then see options at bottom for submitting to the club

Date of application: ___ / ___ / ___

Amount Paid: \$ _____ Cash Check Check # _____

Membership Type: Individual (\$20/year) Family* (\$35/year)

Membership Status: New Renewal Returning Member

Call Sign First Name _____ Last Name _____

If a previous member, what was your WAMO number?

ARRL Member: Yes No

License Class: Technician General Extra Other

Email Address (required) _____

Phone Number (optional) _____

**Use another sheet of paper to add Family members and please include the following information:*

First Name, Last Name, Call Sign (if any), License Class, Wamo Number (if any), & Email Address.

Submitting this form:

To submit this form, you can mail it to:

**Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon
P.O. Box 50
El Cajon, CA 92022**

-OR-

Bring it to the next club meeting on the second Thursday of each month. You can find the date and location by getting online at www.wa6bgs.us which is the club website. Check it out for the most current information regarding the club.

Cash Payments - Get a receipt from the Club Treasurer. Please make all checks payable to AMATEUR RADIO CLUB of EL CAJON, Incorporated. Receipts for payments by check will be sent by email or regular mail by the Club Treasurer.

Members with an FCC Call Sign are full members with voting privileges. Members without an FCC Call Sign are Associate members without voting privileges.

YOUR DUES ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE: Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon, Inc. Is a 501 C 7 Corporation. Donations are NOT tax deductible.

Email address and phone number are to allow club officers to contact members regarding club business and information of interest.